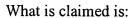
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1	1.	A system of indicating a message size, comprising:	
2		a controller adapted to receive a first message containing a data portion	
3	and an indication of a size for the data portion,		
4		the controller adapted to modify the indication to indicate a different size	
5	for the data p	oortion.	
1	2.	The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is further adapted to	
2	determine a maximum size of data capable of being communicated along a downstream		
3	path, the con	troller modifying the indication based on the determination.	
1	3.	The system of claim 1, wherein the data portion size indication comprises	
2	a Transmissi	on Control Protocol maximum segment size indication.	
1	4.	The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is further adapted to receive	
2	the first mess	age from a client system over a local area network.	
1	5.	The system of claim 4, wherein the controller is further adapted to receive	
2	the first message from the client system over an Ethernet network.		
1	6.	The system of claim 1, wherein the first message comprises an Ethernet	
2	frame.		
1	7.	The system of claim 6, wherein the data portion of the Ethernet frame	
2	carries an Internet Protocol packet.		
1	8.	The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is further adapted to	
2	transmit a second message containing the modified indication.		

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the first message comprises a first data portion and a first control portion, and wherein the second message comprises a second

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of the data portion; and

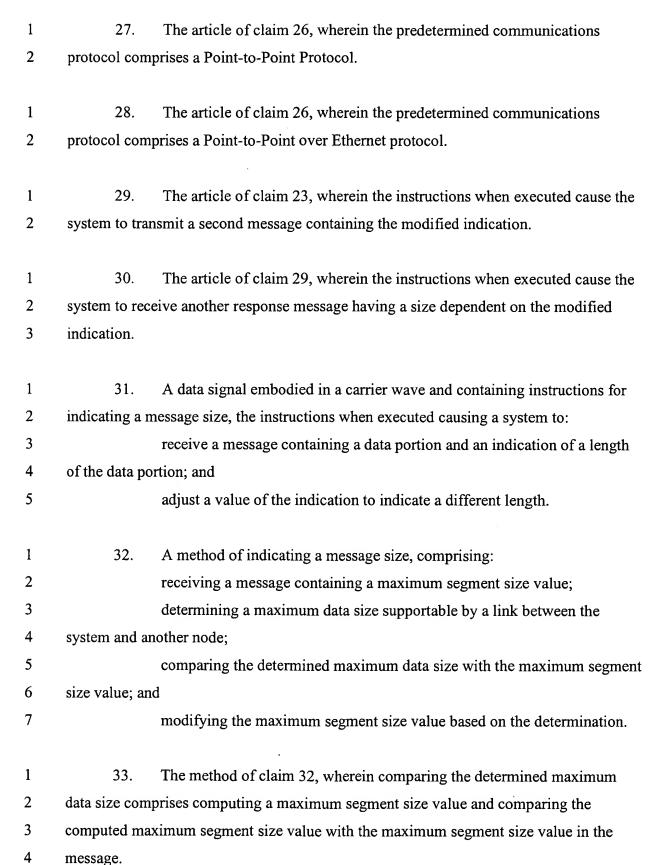
- 3 data portion and a second control portion, the second data portion carrying a control 4 element not carried in the first data portion. 1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the control element in the second data 2 portion comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol control element. 1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the control element in the second data 2 portion comprises a Point-to-Point over Ethernet control element. 12. 1 The system of claim 8, wherein the data portion size indication comprises 2 a Transmission Control Protocol maximum segment size, wherein the maximum segment 3 size in the first message indicates a length of 1,460 bytes and the maximum segment size 4 in the second message indicates a length of 1,452 bytes. 1 13. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is further adapted to modify 2 the indication based on usage of a predetermined communications protocol. 14. 1 The system of claim 13, wherein the predetermined communications 2 protocol comprises a Point-to-Point over Ethernet protocol. 15. 1 The system of claim 1, wherein the indication indicates a maximum size 2 for the data portion. 1 16. A method of indicating a message size performed by a system, 2 comprising: 3 receiving a message containing a data portion and an indication of a length
 - 17. The method of claim 16, wherein adjusting the value of the indication is based on a characteristic of a link between the system and another node.

adjusting a value of the indication to indicate a different length.

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- 1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein adjusting the value of the indication is 2 based on a maximum message size supported by the link. 1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein adjusting the value of the indication is 2 based on usage of a predetermined communications protocol in the link. 1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein adjusting the value of the indication is 2 based on usage of a Point-to-Point over Ethernet protocol in the link. 1 21. The method of claim 16, wherein receiving the message comprises 2 receiving a message having a Transmission Control Protocol maximum segment size. 22. 1 The method of claim 16, wherein the indication indicates a maximum 2 length of the data portion. 1 23. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions 2 for indicating a message size, the instructions when executed causing a system to: 3 receive a message containing an indication of a size of at least a portion of 4 the message; and 5 modify the indication to indicate a different size. 1 24. The article of claim 23, wherein the indication comprises a TCP maximum 2 segment size indication. 1 25. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed cause the 2 system to determine the size of the portion of the message supported by a 3 communications path and to modify the indication based on the determination.
 - 26. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to modify the indication based on whether a predetermined communications protocol is employed in a communications path.



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determination.



1	34.	The method of claim 32, further comprising sending a message containing	
2	the modified maximum segment size value over the link.		
1	35.	The method of claim 32, wherein receiving the message comprises	
2	receiving a message containing a Transmission Control Protocol header that contains the		
3	maximum segment size value.		
1	36.	An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions	
2	for indicating a message size, the instructions when executed causing a system to:		
3		receive a message containing a maximum segment size value;	
4		determine a maximum data size supportable by a link between the system	
5	and another node;		
6		compare the determined maximum data size with the maximum segment	
7	size value; and		
8		modify the maximum segment size value based on the determination.	
1	37.	A system for indicating a message size, comprising:	
2		means for receiving a message containing a maximum segment size value;	
3		means for determining a maximum data size supportable by a link	
4	between the system and another node;		
5		means for comparing the determined maximum data size with the	
6	maximum segment size value; and		

means for modifying the maximum segment size value based on the